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Aller-Scott Report

CIA Grants Under Study

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The Johnson Administration's own investigation of the Central Intelligence Agency's financial aid to private organizations is taking an intriguing turn.

Headed by Undersecretary Nicholas Katzenbach, the CIA study has been expanded to cover aid given Cuban refugee groups and several publication projects, including one dealing with the Warren Commission's inquiry into the assassination of President Kennedy.

The latter project, handled through a publishing firm, entailed the preparation of a comprehensive index by subject and name of the hundreds of persons involved in the Commission's investigation.

The index, now being distributed abroad and in this country, contains descriptive reports on how each of these persons is connected with the case.

For writers, and investigators doing research on the assassination or the Warren Commission's probe of it, the index is the only accurate guide available, although those using it have no knowledge of the CIA's role in its preparation.

The Warren Commission's own index, which was done hurriedly, contains numerous errors and is far from being complete. It contains only names of witnesses and persons mentioned during the Commission's hearings or in exhibits submitted during these proceedings.

In addition to the descriptive summaries of all persons involved in the Commission's inquiry, the CIA-financed index lists many FBI and CIA reports and "working documents" of the Commission, now on file in the National Archives. None of these documents is listed in the Commission's index or its 26 published volumes.

In broadening its inquiry of CIA operations, the Katzenbach committee has interestingly singled out for immediate study the agency's links to a Cuban refugee group known as JURE, which at the time of Kennedy's assassination had members in New Orleans, Dallas, Miami and Puerto Rico.

Several Cubans believed to be members of JURE, which in 1963 was headed by Manuel Ray, leftist anti-Castro leader, were involved in several investigations by the FBI ordered by the Warren Commission.

None of these probes linked these Cubans to Oswald, although one of the agency's investigations was never completed because of the sudden illness of one of the Cubans, who claimed to have met Oswald with two other Cubans.

The pre-November 22, 1963 activities of at least one of these Cubans are now under investigation by District Attorney Jim Garrison, of New Orleans, who claims a plan was developed in that city which culminated in the assassination of President Kennedy. His investigators already have examined several FBI reports involving probes of these Cubans.

Whether the Garrison investigation, which administration officials are carefully watching, had anything to do with the Katzenbach committee's check on CIA involvement with JURE isn't known.

Administration insiders report that Ray and his Cuban refugee group are well known to Katzenbach and CIA authorities. Following the Bay of Pigs fiasco, Ray made numerous visits to Washington and conferred many times with then-Attorney General Robert Kennedy, Katzenbach and several CIA officials.

During this period, most anti-Castro refugee leaders wouldn't have anything to do with Ray because of his leftist views and previous ties with Castro and several known Communists around the Cuban dictator.

In his private conversation with President Johnson, Katzenbach has proposed that in the future all government financing of student groups' attendance at international meetings be done in the open.

Under his proposal, funds of the new international education program would be used to finance these trips. He favors ban-

ning the CIA from using student organizations in their future operations.

The Justice Department has recommended to the White House that a score of FBI Secret Service and CIA reports pertaining to the Warren Commission investigation be made available to the public. The reports are on file at the National Archives in a section reserved for secret documents. The Justice Department's recommendation followed an order by President Johnson to study all secret government investigative reports of the Kennedy assassination to determine whether they can be published without damage to national security. . . . Several U. S. peace organizations, which have advocated halting bombing of North Vietnam, have received invitations from peace groups in Russia to attend meetings in Moscow this spring. The invitation to one women's group contained an offer from the Soviet group to pay for all transportation.

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